

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8-28 and 35-48 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 7 and 29-34 were previously canceled. Claims 49-51 remain as presented in the Amendment filed February 22, 2002 (Paper No. 6). As a result, claims 49-51 are pending in the application.

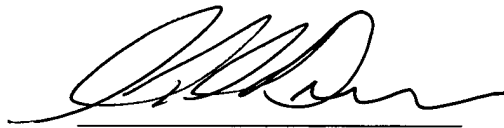
Pursuant to paragraph 1 of the above-referenced Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 44 and 45 for informalities. Pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5, 8, 12-14, 17, 19, 20, 24, 25, 28, 35-37 and 39-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Pan et al. (U.S. 5,386,490) in view of Cohen et al. (U.S. 5,821,510). Pursuant to paragraph 4, the Examiner rejected claims 4, 15 and 16 as being obvious over Pan et al. in view of Cohen et al., and further in view of Miller et al. (U.S. 5,747,785). Pursuant to paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 6, 18 and 38 as being obvious over Pan et al. in view of Cohen et al., and further in view of Hishikawa et al. (U.S. 6,206,583). Pursuant to paragraph 6, the Examiner rejected claims 9, 11, 21, 22, 26 and 27 as being obvious over Pan et al. in view of Cohen et al., and further in view of Haydon (U.S. 4,889,977). Pursuant to paragraph 7, the Examiner rejected claims 10 and 23 as being obvious over Pan et al. in view of Cohen et al., and further in view of Garber (U.S. 6,232,870). Pursuant to paragraph 8, the Examiner rejected claims 44-46 and 48 as being obvious over Cohen et al. in view of Haydon and Miller et al. Pursuant to paragraph 9, the Examiner rejected claim 47 as being obvious over Cohen et al. in view of Haydon and Miller et al., and further in view of Pan et al. Finally, pursuant to paragraphs 10 and 11, the Examiner indicated that claims 49-51 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant has cancelled, without prejudice, each of the claims 1-6, 8-28 and 35-48 objected to and/or rejected by the Examiner. The remaining claims 49-51 stand allowed. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowability or the pending claims 49-51.

This Amendment is being filed concurrently with a petition for three-month extension of time and the requisite fee calculated from the expiration of the time period to file the Appeal Brief. The Notice of Appeal was filed on May 5, 2003, along with a petition for three-month extension of time and the requisite fee. Accordingly, this Amendment is timely filed.

This Amendment does not present new claims for consideration. Accordingly, no fee for excess independent or total claims is due. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any fee due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any fee for excess independent or total claims or any fee or an extension of time not previously accounted for, to Deposit Account No. 19-2167.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Dremann', is written over a horizontal line.

Christopher C. Dremann
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 36,504
P. O. Box 489
Hickory, N. C. 28603
Telephone: 828/901-5904
Facsimile: 828/901-5206

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